

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Urges and requests the Department of Insurance to study the disparities in amounts of co-payments between orally and intravenously administered chemotherapy medications

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Insurance to study the disparities in the amounts of
3 co-payments between orally and intravenously administered chemotherapy
4 medications.

5 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that more than five hundred
6 sixty-five thousand six hundred fifty people in the United States, including approximately
7 nine thousand three hundred fifty in Louisiana, died of some form of cancer in 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society also reports that more than one million
9 four hundred thousand new cases of cancer were diagnosed in 2008, including approximately
10 twenty-three thousand three hundred sixty in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, advances in cancer treatments have led to the availability of oral chemotherapy drugs to treat certain types of cancers, including breast cancer, colon and colorectal cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, lung cancer, Karposi's sarcoma, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, and brain tumor; and

15 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy, which allows a patient to take cancer fighting drugs
16 by mouth in the form of a pill, capsule, or liquid, may be more effective at fighting certain
17 types of cancer and may provide fewer negative side effects in some patients than traditional
18 intravenous chemotherapy; and

1 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy drugs do not require administration in a clinical
2 setting and, therefore, allow a patient to maintain a greater degree of normalcy and
3 independence during treatment than traditional intravenous chemotherapy; and

4 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy may be more cost-efficient for many patients than
5 traditional intravenous chemotherapy since oral chemotherapy does not require each dose
6 to be administered by medical personnel in a clinical setting; and

7 WHEREAS, nonetheless despite this emergence of clinically proven safe and
8 effective oral chemotherapy medications, greater patient out-of-pocket cost creates a barrier
9 for such drugs covered under the pharmacy benefits of a health insurance plan; and

10 WHEREAS, while traditional intravenous chemotherapy is typically covered under
11 a health insurance plan's medical benefits and requires only an office visit co-payment, oral
12 chemotherapy medications are typically covered by the plan's drug benefit and require
13 significant co-payments or coinsurance to fill the prescription at a pharmacy; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that health insurance plans cover all forms of
15 necessary and effective treatment for all cancer patients in this state.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Department of Insurance to study the disparities in the amounts of
18 copayments between orally and intravenously administered chemotherapy medications.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance shall report its
20 findings on these disparities to the House and Senate committees on insurance by January
21 1, 2010.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Talbot

HCR No. 103

Urges and requests the Dept. of Insurance to study the disparities in the amounts of copayments between orally and intravenously administered chemotherapy medications and report its findings to the House and Senate committees on insurance by Jan. 1, 2010.